

3. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1 wherein said establishing of said relationship comprises storing in said memory an identification indicia indicative of said radio frequency identification device.

4. (Original) Method of claim 1 wherein said establishing of said relationship comprises storing in said memory an identification of the customer to whom said container is provided.

5. (Original) Method of claim 1 further comprising:

receiving orders from customers, said orders being for goods from a plurality of vendors, said orders being communicated to each of said vendors;

collecting said goods from said plurality of vendors at a central location;

providing said goods in said reusable containers;

informing said customers when said goods will be available for pickup; and

making said goods available for pickup by said customers, wherein said goods are in said reusable containers.

6. (Previously presented) Method of claim 5 wherein said customers return said reusable containers to a central collection point, said method further comprising querying the radio frequency identification devices within said containers when said customers return said containers to said collection point.

7. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1 further comprising crediting accounts of those customers who return their reusable containers, said crediting being accomplished by a computer that receives the data scanned in from said radio frequency identification devices.

8. (Previously presented) A system comprising:
a memory;
a plurality of reusable containers, each reusable container having a radio frequency identification device affixed thereto; and

a scanner for scanning the radio frequency identification device affixed to said containers and tracking when said containers are provided to customers and when said containers are returned by said customers.

9. (Original) System of claim 8 wherein a computerized billing system is electronically coupled to the memory so that a customer can be billed if that customer does not return the reusable container.

10. (Previously presented) A method comprising:
providing goods in reusable containers, said reusable containers having a radio frequency identification device attached thereto;
establishing a relationship between a radio frequency identification device and a memory;
shipping said goods in said containers to a distribution point;

providing said goods to customers;
collecting said reusable containers; and
identifying which containers have been collected by electronically querying the radio frequency identification devices attached to the reusable containers.

11. (Previously presented) A system comprising:
a memory;
a plurality of reusable containers, each reusable container having a radio frequency identification device affixed thereto; and
a scanner for scanning the radio frequency identification device affixed to said containers and tracking said containers, said containers being collected at a collection point after they have been used to ship products, said scanner scanning the radio frequency identification device affixed to said containers at the collection point so that the collection of said containers can be logged.

12. (Original) System of claim 11 wherein said containers are collected at a collection point after they have been used to ship products, whereby said scanner scans the RFID apparatus affixed to said containers at the collection point so that the location of said containers can be tracked.

13. (Original) A method comprising:
providing goods in reusable containers, said reusable containers having an indicia attached thereto;

establishing a relationship between said indicia and a memory;
providing said goods in said containers to customers;
collecting said reusable containers from said customers; and
identifying which customers have returned their reusable containers by reading
the indicia attached to the reusable containers collected from said customers.

14. (Original) Method of claim 13 wherein said indicia comprise machine
readable indicia, said method further comprising scanning said machine readable indicia
prior to providing said goods in said containers to said customers, and entering into said
memory information indicating the containers and the customers to whom said containers
are being provided.

15. (Original) Method of claim 14 wherein said indicia comprises a bar code
or a magnetic strip.

16. (Original) Method of claim 14 further comprising collecting said
containers from said customers and scanning said indicia after collecting said containers
from said customers.

17. (Original) Method of claim 13 wherein said indicia are machine-readable
indicia, said reading of said indicia comprising scanning said indicia electronically.

18. (Original) A method comprising:

providing goods in reusable containers, said reusable containers having identification indicia attached thereto;

establishing a relationship between that indicia and a memory;

providing said goods in said containers to customers;

collecting information on the purchasing habits of said customers; and

offering a reduction of shipping cost in exchange for allowing targeted advertisement to be added to the reusable containers.

19. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1 wherein said reusable containers contain one or more consumer products and are provided to the consumers of said consumer products in said containers.

20. (Previously presented) System of claim 8 wherein said containers contain one or more consumer products and are provided to the consumers of said consumer products in said containers.

21. (Previously presented) Method of claim 10 wherein said reusable containers contain one or more consumer products and are provided to the consumers of said consumer products in said containers.

22. (Previously presented) System of claim 11 wherein said containers contain one or more consumer products and are provided to the consumers of said consumer products in said containers.

23. (Previously presented) Method of claim 13 wherein said reusable containers contain one or more consumer products and are provided to the consumers of said consumer products in said containers.

24. (Previously presented) Method of claim 18 wherein said reusable containers contain one or more consumer products and are provided to the consumers of said consumer products in said containers.

25. (Previously presented) Method of claim 1 wherein said radio frequency identification device is provided in a compartment within said container.

26. (Previously presented) System of claim 8 wherein said radio frequency identification device is provided in a compartment within said container.

27. (Previously presented) Method of claim 10 wherein said radio frequency identification device is provided in a compartment within said container.

28. (Previously presented) System of claim 11 wherein said radio frequency identification device is provided in a compartment within said container.

29. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

providing goods in reusable containers, said reusable containers being equipped with a RFID;

providing said goods in said containers to customers;

collecting said reusable containers from said customers; and

identifying which customers have returned their reusable containers by electronically querying the RFIDs with which the reusable containers collected from said customers are equipped.

30. (Previously presented) Method of claim 29 further comprising logging data in a memory indicative of the return of said reusable containers in response to said electronically querying.

31. (Previously presented) A system comprising:

a memory;

a plurality of reusable containers, each reusable container being equipped with a RFID; and

a scanner for scanning the RFID with which said containers are equipped and tracking when said containers are provided to customers and when said containers are returned by said customers.

32. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

providing goods in reusable containers, said reusable containers equipped with an RFID;

shipping said goods in said containers to a distribution point;
providing said goods to customers;
collecting said reusable containers after said shipping and providing; and
identifying which containers have been collected by electronically querying the
RFIDs with which the reusable containers are equipped.

33. (Previously presented) Method of claim 32 further comprising logging
data in a memory indicative of the return of said reusable containers in response to said
electronically querying.

34. (Previously presented) A system comprising:
a memory;
a plurality of reusable containers, each reusable container being equipped with a
RFID; and
a scanner for scanning the RFID with which said containers are equipped and
tracking said containers, wherein said containers are collected at a collection point after
they have been used to ship products, and said scanner scans the RFID with which said
containers are equipped at the collection point so that the return of said containers can be
logged.

35. (New) Method of claim 29 or 32 wherein the goods provided in said
reusable containers are one or more packaged items.

36. (New) Method of claim 29 or 32 wherein the reusable containers comprise are capable of containing one or more packaged items.

37. (New) System of claim 31 or 34 wherein said reusable containers are capable of containing one or more packaged items.

38. (New) System of claim 31 or 34 wherein said reusable containers contain one or more packaged items.

39. (New) System of claim 31 or 34 wherein said scanner is located at a container return facility and wherein said memory stores information indicative of the customers to whom said containers have been provided.

40. (New) System of claim 37 wherein said scanner is located at a container return facility and wherein said memory stores information indicative of the customers to whom said containers have been provided.

41. (New) System of claim 38 wherein said scanner is located at a container return facility and wherein said memory stores information indicative of the customers to whom said containers have been provided.

42. (New) Method of claim 29 or 32 wherein said containers are capable of containing different types of goods.

43. (New) Structure of claim 31 or 34 wherein said containers are capable of containing different types of goods.

44. (New) Method of claim 29 or 32 wherein said containers are capable of storing solid goods.

45. (New) Method of claim 29 or 32 wherein said containers store solid goods.

46. (New) Structure of claim 31 or 34 wherein said containers are capable of storing solid goods.